



# Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

## *Humphreys Hydroelectric Project*

P-13871- Colorado

On December 22, 2010, an order granting exemption from licensing (5 megawatts or less) was issued to Wagon Wheel Associates (Wagon Wheel) to construct, operate, and maintain the 310-kilowatt (kW) Humphreys Hydroelectric Project. The project will be located on Goose Creek, near the town of South Fork, in Mineral County, Colorado and will not use or occupy any federal facilities or land.

The run-of-river Humphreys Hydroelectric Project will use the water power potential of the 90-foot-high existing Humphreys dam. The proposed project will consist of the following facilities: (1) a new siphon intake and trash rack constructed on the left abutment of the dam at elevation 8,971.15 feet msl; (2) a new 36-inch-diameter, 600-foot-long aboveground steel penstock; (3) a new 16-foot-wide, 24-foot-long powerhouse containing a turbine generating unit with an installed capacity of 310 kW; (4) a new 500-foot-long, 25-kilovolt buried cable connecting the powerhouse to the existing underground power line located adjacent to the project's access road; and (5) appurtenant facilities.

The factors that contributed to an expedited exemption process included;

- The project was sited and designed such that the project's environmental effects would be minimal;
- Wagon Wheel conducted extensive pre-filing consultation with interested federal and state agencies, tribal entities, non-governmental organizations, and the public which resulted in a complete application;
- Wagon Wheel submitted a draft application to Commission staff for their review which allowed staff to provide comments on the draft application and request clarification information;
- Staff issued a combined tendering, acceptance, and ready for environmental analysis notice that waived scoping and shortened time frames to file comments and final terms and conditions;
- Staff received concurrence from the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer that a finding of no effect on historic properties was appropriate for the proposed project;
- Staff issued a single environmental assessment in lieu of draft and final NEPA documents; and

- The order was issued on the same day as the environmental assessment.